

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 16307 021827Z

ACTION EB-07

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 16307

USOECD

EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJ: UNIFORMITY OF COMPUTER SAFEGUARDS

REFS: A) STATE 123520, B) PARIS 14302

1. GERMAN DEL INITIATED DISCUSSION ON UNIFORMITY OF SAFE-
GUARDS AS APPLIED TO COMPUTER EXPORTS AT COCOM MEETING
5/31. HE READ STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT A DIFFEREN-
TIAL REGARDING APPLICATION OF COMPUTER SAFEGUARDS TO
CHINA WAS APPARENTLY IN THE MAKING AS A RESULT OF PRC'S
ADAMENT REFUSAL TO ACCEPT SAFEGUARD CONDITIONS REGU-
LARLY APPLIED TO COMPUTER EXPORTS TO EASTERN EUROPE.
HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVED THAT THIS PROBLEM WAS LIKELY
TO GROW IN SEVERITY AS TRADE WITH THE PRC INCR-
EASED OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS. HIS AUTHORITIES HAVE
ALSO LONG BEEN CONCERNED, HE SAID, BY THE HEAVY BURDEN
AND HIGH COST OF MAINTAINING SUCH SAFEGUARDS, PARTICU-
LARLY IN THE CASE OF LOWER COST SYSTEMS. THEY HAD LONG
BELIEVED THAT NOTE 12 COMPUTER SAFEGUARDS WERE NEEDLESS-
LY RIGID AND THAT A LESSENING OF SUCH SAFEGUARDS AS
APPLIED TO MOST COMPUTER EXPORTS TO EASTERN EUROPE
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PAGE 02 PARIS 16307 021827Z

WOULD NOT MEASURABLY ENHANCE THE RISK OF THEIR DIVER-
SION TO STRATEGIC END USES. WHILE HIS AUTHORITIES HAD
NOFIRM PROPOSALS TO MAKE ON THIS SUBJECT THEY BELIEVED
THAT COMPUTER SAFEGUARDS SHOULD BE RELAXED TO A LEVEL
THAT COULD EQUALLY BE APPLIED TO THE CHINESE AND COMECON
NATIONS WHILE NOT SACRIFICING WESTERN SECURITY INTERESTS.
FRENCH DEL WARMLY WELCOMED GERMAN DELS REMARKS, WITH

WHICH, HE SAID HIS AUTHORITIES WERE IN FULL ACCORD.

2. UKDEL ALSO READ STATEMENT NOTING THAT MEMBER COUNTRIES WERE ALWAYS FREE TO SUBMIT GENERAL EXCEPTION REQUESTS OUTSIDE THE PURVIEW OF NOTE 12. EACH CASE SO SUBMITTED, WAS STUDIED ON ITS OWN MERITS. NO DIFFERENTIAL COULD BE INFERRED FROM SUCH A PROCEDURE, HE SAID.

3. USDEL MADE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL, (COPY OF STATEMENT BEING POUCHED 6/3). STATEMENT WAS RECEIVED WITH INTEREST BY ALL DELEGATIONS, ALTHOUGH NONE WAS IN A POSITION TO COMMENT. CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED THAT MATTER BE RESCHEDULED FOR FURTHER STATEMENTS OR COMMENTS AT COCOM MEETING 6/21.

4. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT DISCUSSION MAY 31 WAS ONLY OPENING GAMBIT ON TOPIC OF APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF SAFEGUARDS. STATEMENTS MADE AT COCOM MEETING 5/31 LIKELY TO PROVOKE CONSIDERABLE SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION ON THIS TOPIC. USDEL BELIEVES THAT PRC ISSUE AND APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF SAFEGUARDS TO BE APPLIED TO COMPUTER CASES SUBMITTED AS GENERAL EXCEPTIONS SHOULD BE KEPT SEPARATE AND WAS PLEASED THAT REFTEL INSTRUCTION WAS STRUCTURED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO TREAT QUESTIONS SEPARATELY WHILE INDICATING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEM.

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